

TETTENHALL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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**Medical Officer of Health's Report  
for 1900.**

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17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT.



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Population Census, 1881 ... ..	4636
„ „ 1891 (June) ... ..	5145
Population estimated by natural increase to June, 1900	5720
Area in Statute Acres ... ..	1220
Inhabited Houses, 1881 ... ..	940
„ „ 1891 ... ..	1056
„ „ 1900 ... ..	1315
Tettenhall Local Board Constituted ... ..	1883
Adoption of Bye-laws ... ..	1887
„ Notification Act ... ..	1889
Sewerage Works commenced 1890. finished ... ..	1892
Isolation Hospital Provided .. ...	1891
Public Scavenging inaugurated May ... ..	1897

#### TABLES.

- I. & II Table of Births, Deaths, and Infant Mortality, from 1890 to 1900.
- III. Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1900.
- IV. Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during 1900.
- V. A Comparative Table of Epidemics, from 1883 to 1900.
- VI Scarlet Fever.
- VII. Summary of Sanitary Work.

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1900.



*To the Chairman of the Tettenhall District Council.*

Sir,

Up to June, 1900, the Population of the Urban District of Tettenhall was estimated by natural increase to be 5720, but as there are now 1315 houses in the District, and there was an average at the last census of 4·87 persons to a house, the next census will show that there are about 6300 inhabitants in Tettenhall, if the old average is maintained.

Probably there will not be so large a proportion as nearly five persons to a house because the increase of accommodation has diminished the frequency of overcrowding, and the erection of houses like those at Autherley seems to attract newly-married couples. It is further stated that several houses which contained large establishments are now void

During 1900 there were 134 Births and 68 Deaths. The Birth Rate was 23·4, and the Death Rate 11·6. The Infant Mortality was 134·8, there being 18 deaths of Infants under one year. A reference to the 2nd column in Table III will show the cause of death, but even allowing for the hard conditions under which the poor live the Infant Mortality is too high, and has only been exceeded in 1898.

The causes of Death are summarized on Table IV.—the form which has been adopted by the L.G.B. and the C.C.

It is satisfactory to note that death from Epidemic Disease has only been recorded in two instances, viz.: One death from Whooping Cough and one from Epidemic Influenza.

Considering the opportunities existing in this District for alcoholic indulgence, three deaths from this cause cannot be called excessive.

Heart Disease is not particularly fatal in Tettenhall, as the ages of the 6 persons said to have died of this complaint are respectively 70, 77, 80, 85, 66 and 88

**Infectious Diseases.** 26 Notifications have been received during the year, viz. : Diphtheria 5 ; Erysipelas 3 ; Scarlet Fever 14 ; Enteric 4 ; and there have been no deaths from any of these diseases.

Since the fierce outburst in 1895 and 1896, when there were 100 cases and 19 deaths, **Diphtheria** has languished in the District. There were 6 cases in 1897, 1 in 1898, and 1 in 1899. In 1890 the record rose to 5 ; but examination of the secretions of the throat only showed Diphtheria Bacilli in two instances.

**Erysipelas** is a disease of minor importance to notify when compared with **Measles**, which is more prevalent than any other infectious disease, and in our district is not only fatal to life but more productive in after effects than any other disease. As Surgeon to the Wolverhampton Hospital, I have noticed the frequency of disease of the ear, of the glands of the neck, and general ill health attributable to Measles more than any other disease, not excepting Scarlet Fever.

If it were not for the courtesy of the Masters of the local National Schools we should be ignorant of the extent of the prevalence of **Measles**.

Of the 14 cases of **Scarlet Fever** 8 were treated at the Hospital. I am of opinion that Scarlet Fever is neither so virulent to the individual nor so infectious to the community as it was 20 years ago. It may be that the disease is played out, but it is possible that as the skin is the most fertile dispenser of the disease the use of unguents fatal to its distribution are more universally used.

Four cases of **Typhoid** were notified, 1 at Finchfield and 3 in New Village. These last cases were caused by polluted well water and will be commented on further in this report.

During the severe and changeable weather of the earlier part of the year, when snow, wet, and cold winds were prevalent, there were many cases of **Epidemic Influenza**. At the end of 1899 it may be recollected that nearly every person in Compton suffered from this complaint.

There were also several cases of **Measles** in January and February, and it is interesting to notice that Measles spread most rapidly at Finchfield, Compton, and Wightwick, and some parts of Tettenhall Wood, especially School Road.

I also noted that in January and February there were many cases of Albuminaria and Ringworm.

**Arsenic in Beer.** The County Medical Officer issued a Circular on 4th December, 1900, on the subject of Arsenical Poisoning from Beer, but from enquiries among local practitioners and at the General Hospital, I was unable to discover that any persons in your district suffered from Arsenical Neuritis, and I am happy to note that in his admirable report on the subject Dr. Reid has nothing to say about our District.

The return of Reservists and Soldiers from the war may demand some vigilance on the part of Sanitary Authorities with regard to the spread of Typhoid Fever, but is scarcely likely to affect Tettenhall to a great degree.

I understand that by the L.G.B.'s "Epidemic Regulations: Notification of Cases of Plague (19 Sep. 1900) Plague is a Notifiable Disease.

Two cases of **Overcrowding**, one at Wood Road, Tettenhall Wood, the other at Finchfield, were dealt with by the tenants removing elsewhere, In one instance Scarlet Fever broke out in the house and several children were successively removed to the Hospital, in the other two parents and 11 children may find it difficult to find a commodious house within their means. This family has been noted in my reports of 1895, 1896 and 1900.

**Removal of Night Soil.** A complaint was made (January 15th, 1900) that Night Soil was removed at a time when people went to work and children to school. It was further stated that as long as the Council permitted Privy-middens and undertook to empty them "the general public are entitled to protection from stinks." Mr. Mortimer has pointed out the Byelaw which is designed "to ensure that the work shall not be done under the cover of darkness" "when the light is insufficient to enable the men to do it properly." The Byelaw enjoins that the work shall be done between 6 and 8-30 from March to October, and between 7 and 9-30 from November till February.

**Dilapidated Houses.** Two houses by the Canal side at Compton, which have caused much trouble to the Council have been bought by Mr. L. T. Law and have been drained, repaired, and partially rebuilt in July.

**Impure Water.** Five years ago the water in a well in New Village was condemned. It was found that a faulty drain percolated into the well. The drain was relaid and the well cleaned out. The same well during 1900 gave rise to three cases of Typhoid. It is now closed and tap water laid on to the houses.

**Out Fall Works.** The Council having applied for sanction to borrow £350 for Sewerage Works, the L.G.B. directed their Instructor Mr. R. H. Bicknell to hold an Inquiry on 10th January, 1900.

At the termination of the Inquiry Mr. Bicknell visited Compton, where the Sewer had been relaid, and inspected man-holes 10 and 11, and afterwards drove to the Out Fall Works accompanied by the Clerk, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Surveyor.

As a result of his Inquiry the Inspector reported to the L.G.B. that it is necessary

1. That the covers of the two manholes referred to should be freed from road material and used as ventilators, or that ventilation should be provided by means of large bore pipes carried up adjacent buildings or trees.

2. That the inverts should be so constructed as to render it impossible for the filth to accumulate on the sides of the man holes as at present

3. That arrangements should be made so that the sewage from the branch sewers will not fall in cascades in the invert of the manhole.

4. That steps should be at once taken to free the Outfall sewer of silt below the Swan Inn, and arrangements made for effectually preventing the sewer from again getting into such an unsatisfactory condition.

Mr. Bicknell also advised

1. That Sludge Pits should be provided at the Outfall Works of sufficient size to enable the sludge to be thoroughly dried before being removed.

2. That the drainage of such pits should be taken back and re-treated in the tanks.

It may be noted from the Report of the Surveyor to the D.C. that Mr. Bicknell said

1. It was bad policy to allow a known inefficient sewer to remain. He noticed that the bottom of Manhole 11 was covered with sewage and the flow appeared to be retarded, and advised the Council to relay the sewer from manhole 11 to 13 with iron pipes bored and concreted. He said the manhole bottom should be constructed so as to prevent lodgement of solids and recommended the Council to ask for a loan to cover the whole work.

The reference to surface ventilation is covered by the recommendation of the L.G.B.

With regard to the Outfall Works Mr. Bicknell indicated that the volume of sewage was greater than it ought to be.



The storm water and the subsoil water which ought to be diverted into the Smestow Brook, which is now a languid sewage laden stream, at present unnecessarily flushes the sewers and renders the land at the Outfall Works sodden.

He advised a bacteria bed to be made when the sewage was diluted to six times its volume and the result turned straight into the Black Brook.

With regard to the sewage works generally, the Inspector thought them good, but

I. The place ought to be kept cleaner and the deposit tanks should be thoroughly washed with water and squeegees every time they were emptied as any deposit left rendered the treatment of sewage more difficult.

II. The hollow space by No. 1 precipitation tank is an offensive pool, which ought to be concreted if it is necessary to put the sewage sludge there.

III. The sludge should be dried before removal and the drainage re-treated in the tanks before turning it into the effluent.

IV. The land available for irrigation was insufficient.

V. The effluent too opalescent.

In compliance with the direction of the L.G.B.

I. A Sewer ventilating column was fixed at Compton and one at Finchfield, and men are sent round periodically to remove the road grit from the manhole covers.

II. The invert has been altered at M.H. 11 as Mr. Bicknell advised, and

III. The bell shaped pipe lengthened so as to prevent splashing

IV. A 9in. sluice valve has been introduced from the Compton Mill Pool into an inspection hole in Henwood Lane to flush the sewer. This has removed the silt between Manholes 11 and 13.

With regard to the Outfall Works two of the quiescent tanks have been converted into open septic tanks for the biological treatment of sewage on the recommendation of the County Medical Officer of Health. It is hoped that by this means the difficulty of the sludge will be overcome. As the alteration was made late in the Autumn sufficient time has not elapsed to test the efficacy of the system.

### **Report of Sanitary Inspector.**

384 Inspections are recorded, and 341 Nuisances abated. Formal notice was given in 20 instances. The result of these observations is recorded on Table V.

Two blocked sewers at Finchfield were rodded and flushed and two new manholes put in.

Three new ventilating columns have been fixed during the year at Manor Street, Compton and Finchfield.

As it has been stated already the biological treatment of sewage has been substituted for the treatment by Lime.

**Water Supply.** Tap water was laid on to 9 houses, and 76 yards of 3in main has been laid in a new street off Waterworks Lane.

**Sewer Communication.** The drains of 10 houses were connected with the sewer during the year. There are now 1,106 houses in communication with the sewers.

**Nightsoil and House Refuse.** 1,309 loads of house refuse were removed from 1,023 ashpits.

A matter in which the County Council is at variance with the District Council as to the enforcement of Byc-Laws, will be dealt with in the Report for 1901.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. T. WINTER.

22nd March, 1901.

TABLES I. & II.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.

FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1890	5085	129	25·3	15	116·2	69	13·5
1891	5145	135	26·2	12	88·8	62	12
1892	5239	128	24·2	15	117·2	68	12·9
1893	5314	154	28·9	14	90·9	77	14·9
1894	5344	142	26·5	11	77·5	69	12·9
1895	5385	132	24·5	16	121·2	110	20·4
1896	5434	148	27·2	17	114·8	58	10·6
1897	5520	130	23·5	15	115·3	66	11·9
1898	5584	140	25·0	23	164·2	79	14·1
1899	5655	138	24·4	11	79·7	62	10·9
Averages for years 1890-1899.	5370	137	25·5	14·9	108·5	72	13·4
1900	5720	134	23·4	18	134·3	68	11·6

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

TABLE III.  
TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Whooping-cough ...	1	1					
Epidemic Influenza ...	1					1	
Diarrhoea ... ..	1	1					
Enteritis ... ..	4	3	1				
Other septic diseases ...	1			1			
Phthisis ... ..	2					2	
Other tubercular diseases ... ..	4	1	2			1	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	5					3	2
Bronchitis ... ..	11	2	1		1	3	4
Pneumonia ... ..	3	2					1
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of liver }	3					3	
Premature Birth ...	3	3					
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2					2	
Heart diseases ...	6						6
Accidents ... ..	2		1				1
Bright's Disease ...	2					2	
Apoplexy ... ..	4						4
All other causes ...	13	5			2	1	5
All causes ...	68	18	5	1	3	18	23

TABLE IV.

## TETTENHALL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE  
YEAR, 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages — Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards.
Diphtheria ... ..	5		2	1		2	
Erysipelas ... ..	3					3	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	14		5	8	1		
Enteric Fever ... ..	4			3		1	
Totals ... ..	26		7	12	1	6	

No. of Cases Removed to Hospital, 8.

TABLE V.

## A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES, from 1883—1899.

Year.	Small-pox.		Scarlet Fever. SEE TABLE VI.		Diphtheria.		Typhoid.		Puerperal Fever.		Measles.		Epidemic Influenza.	
	No. of Cases.	deaths.	No. of Cases.	deaths.	No. of Cases.	deaths.	No. of Cases.	deaths.	No. of Cases.	deaths.	No. of cases.	deaths.	No. of Cases.	deaths.
1883	7	1	5		1		1				XX	2		
1884			6				1				5	5		
1885						1					115	5		
1886											34	5		
1887			1	1	1		8	3						
1888			2				1							
1889*											49	3	XX	
1890			16	1			3				86	1	XX	
1891			17				3	1	1		X	1	XX	
1892			14				6		1		3		XX	
1893	1		29				6						X	
1894			46	3			2	1	1		40	3		
1895			24	1			2		1					3
1896			50	2			40	15	1					1
1897			9				6	4						
1898			11	2			1						X	
1899			5				1				230	8	XX	
1900			14				5	2			34		XX	1
								4			10		XX	
TOTALS.	8	1	249	10	135	27	46	7	4		606	28		5

NOTE—A few cases X. Prevalent XX. Very Prevalent XXX.

\* Adoption of Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

TABLE VI.  
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SCARLET FEVER.

Year.	Rent of Hos- pital.	Charges for Board and Treatment in Hospital.	No. of Days charged at 1/6      2/6		No of Patients in Hospital.	Deaths in Hos- pital.	Patients not treated in Hospital.	No. of Deaths in Patients not treated in Hospital.
1892	£40	£16 2 6	215	—	4	—	10	—
1893	£40	£54 10 6	512	129	13	—	16	—
1894	£40	£61 17 6	728	33	17	2	29	1
1895	£40	£34 14 0	431	19	9	—	15	1
1896	£40	£151 12 6	975	629	32	2	18	—
1897	£40	£18 13 6	249	—	4	—	5	—
1898	£40	£8 9 6	113	—	4	2	7	—
1899	£40	£6 7 6	85	—	1	—	4	—
1900	£40	£27 15 0	370	—	8	—	6	—

# STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

TABLE VII

*SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1900, in the Urban District of Tettenhall.*

			Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notices and Intimations.
Dwelling houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions .. ..	..	1	1	1
	Structural Defects .. ..	..	13	1	13
	Overcrowding .. ..	..	6	1	1
	Unfit for Habitation .. ..	..	1	1	1
	Lodging-houses .. ..	..	..	..	..
	Dairies and Milkshops .. ..	..	23	..	23
	Cowsheds .. ..	..	39	1	1
	Bakehouses .. ..	..	40	..	40
	Slaughter-houses .. ..	..	16	..	16
	Canal Boats .. ..	..	..	..	..
	Ashpits and Privies .. ..	..	52	1	52
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure .. ..	..	21	..	21
	Water Closets .. ..	..	9	..	9
House Drainage	Defective Traps .. ..	..	16	7	16
	Foul Cesspools .. ..	..	9	..	9
	Other Faults .. ..	..	52	2	52
	Water Supply .. ..	..	..	..	..
	Pigsties { Too near dwell- ings .. ..	..	8	..	8
	Accumulation of Wash .. ..	..	17	2	17
	Animals improperly kept .. ..	..	9	..	9
	Offensive Trades .. ..	..	..	..	..
	Smoke Nuisances .. ..	..	..	..	..
	Other Nuisances .. ..	..	52	3	52
TOTALS .. ..			384	20	341
					Nos
Samples of Water taken for Analysis, affecting 3 houses .. ..					1
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ..					1
<b>Precautions against Infectious Disease.</b>					
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ..					13

NOTE.—When an Inspection or Notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.

*Signed, JNO. MORTIMER, Inspector of Nuisances.*

11th February, 1901.